projects, hospital construction, construction of roads and bridges, improvement and upgradation of transmission grid, rural electrification, education sector, strengthening of Paro airport and construction of High Court building.

There are no restrictions on cultural exchanges or visits of artists between the two countries. A large number of Bhutanese students study in Indian schools and colleges on a private basis, 50 scholarships each are extended to them under the Colombo Plan and Government of India Scholarship Scheme respectively. India also provides experts and specialists to Bhutan in various fields.

International Reaction on Nuclear Tests

185. DR. SHRIKANT RAMACHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) Which are the countries who have congratulated India on the successful tests of three devices at Pokhran on 11.5.98 and which are the countries who have criticised our country;

(b) What is the plan of Government to surmount the adverse reactions which have come against India; and

(c) what steps will be taken to consolidate India's position in the international community *vis-a-vis* the recent nuclear tests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE): (a) A number of countries have conveyed a degree of understanding of the rationale behind India's decision to undertake these tests. Some countries have been markedly critical, *inter alia*, USA, Canada, Japan, Australia and, New Zealand. Pakistan's reaction has been strongly critical "condemning" India's decision; Pakistan has sought to generate international propaganda against India on this issue. Many countries have expressed concern about the tests and most have reiterated their commitment to the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) and Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

(b) and (c) Government have taken all steps necessary to explain the rationale underlying the decision to authorise these tests which were aimed at reassuring the Indian people that Government would attach the highest priority to addressing India's security concerns. Government intends to continue to actively engage various countries, both at the official as well as the non-official level, with the objective of highlighting our unique record of restraint and our seriousness to actively engage in a constructive dialogue towards the objective of global nuclear disarmament. In our interaction with interlocutors in various countries, Government have reaffirmed that we are a responsible member of the international community and that our policies are consistently marked by a high degree of restraint and responsible conduct.

Number of NRIs from Gujarat settled abroad

186. SHRI SHMED PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that quite a good number of NRIs from Gujarat are settled abroad;

(b) if so, whether Government have assessed their number, country-wise; and

(c) what facilities have been extended by Government to Gujarati NRIs for their participation in investment in India particularly for the industrial development of Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No. Sir.

(c) The Government has taken a number of steps to boost investment in India by NRIs including from Gujarati NRIs. Several schemes and incentives are available for investment in the different sectors. NRIs and Overseas Corporate Bodies (OCBs) predominantly owned by

them have been permitted to invest up to 100% foreign equity in high-priority areas and in other industries like hotel and tourism related industries, hospitals, advance diagnostic centres, shipping, export oriented deep sea fishing industries, oil exploration and real estate & housing sector.

The Government also constantly reviews the policy relating to NRI investment with a view to making it competitive and provide adequate incentives and facilities to NRIs as a whole.

The State Governments, including Gujarat, formulate their own incentive schemes and infrastructural facilities for attracting foreign and NRI investment in their state and review the same from time to time. However, for the development of backward areas, Government is operating Growth Centre Scheme, Integrated Infrastructure Development Scheme and Transport Subsity Scheme, for attracting investment.

Status of J&K in Foreign Maps

187. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the maps of foreign countries Jammu and Kashmir is not shown as a part of India;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereon; and

(c) the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE): (a) to (c) All instances of incorrect depiction of the map of India, including of the state of Jammu & Kashmir, which are brought to Government's notice, are taken up with the concerned authorities.

भारतीय सांस्कृतिक संबंध परिषद् के संगठनात्मक ढांचे में परिवर्तन

188. **चौ० हरमोहन सिंह यादव:**
श्री ईश दत्त यादव:

क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार भारतीय सांस्कृतिक संबंध परिषद् के संगठनात्मक ढांचे में परिवर्तन करने पर विचार कर रही है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं?

विदेश मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती वसुन्धरा राजे): (क) नई गतिविधियों पर निर्भर करते हुए भारतीय सांस्कृतिक संबंध परिषद के संगठनात्मक ढांचे की, जैसा कि इसके संविधान में परिभाषित किया गया है, समीक्षा की जाती है और शासी निकाय तथा भा० सां० सं० प० की महासभा द्वारा सुझाए गए परिवर्तनों को स्वीकार किया जाता है।

(ख) इस प्रकार परिषद ने हाल ही में जोहानसबर्ग, डरबन और कोलंबो में अपने नए सांस्कृतिक केन्द्र खोले हैं।

(ग) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

Reaction of neighbouring countries to Nuclear Tests

189. SHRI GUFRAN AZAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have conducted three underground nuclear test at the Pokhran range in Rajasthan on 11 May, 1998;

(b) if, so the reaction of the neighbouring countries to these tests;

(c) the salient features of the proposed tests; and

(d) to what extent the security of the country would be strengthened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Pakistan's reaction has been strongly critical "condemning" India's decision; Pakistan has sought to generate international propaganda against India on